

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-24, 26-47, and 49 are pending. Previously withdrawn claims 3, 25, 48 and 50-56 are canceled. Claims 2 and 57-119 are canceled. Claims 1, 4-17, 19-24, 26-31, 33-35, 38-43, 45-47 and 49 are rejected. Claims 18, 32, 36, 37 and 44 are objected to as dependent on rejected claims but containing allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of these claims. By this amendment, claims 1, 11, 13 and 14 are amended to expedite allowance. No surrender of document of equivalents is intended by this amendment.

Non-compliant Amendment

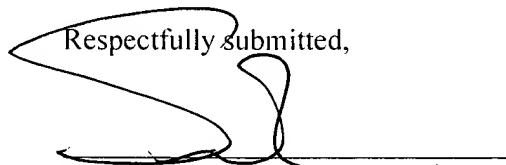
The Response and Amendment filed on January 3, 2005 were considered non-compliant for failure to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 because a complete listing of all claims was not present and the listing of claims did not include the text of all pending claims including withdrawn claims. Previously withdrawn claims are hereby canceled and the listing of claims are amended to reflect this cancellation. Acceptance of this Supplemental Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103

Claim 1, 4, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 24, 26-29 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris. Claims 1, 6, 7-10, 13-15, 19-24, 26-29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 42, 43, 45, 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boussignac et al. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crocker. Claims 5, 39-41, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) unpatentable over Boussignac et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. None of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of these claims prior to amendment. Moreover, none of these references teaches “wherein the open channels are covered by a membrane.” Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Date: January 25, 2005

Sean S. Wooden
Registration No. 43,997

Andrews Kurth LLP
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. (202) 662-2738
Fax (202) 662-2739